# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# DEFENCE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:691
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2001
MARITIME RESOURCES
P. RAJENDRAN

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether our maritime resources and area of responsibility has increased manifold;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Navy has a vital responsibility to patrolling our territories against poachers, intruders and illegal sellers so as to secure environment around Andaman group of Islands; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

## Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) covers an area of 2.02 million Square Kilometres with sovereign rights to explore, exploit, conserve and manage natural resources. With the de-lienation of the continental shelf as per United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the EEZ of India is expected to increase further by about another 1 million Square Kilometres.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Indian Navy and Coast Guard jointly carry out the patrolling of the area around Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) Islands for surveillance and apprehension of poachers and intruders. Recently, an A&N Command comprising Navy, Air Force, Army and Coast Guard has been created for effective coordination and combat action.